

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re

U.S. Application of: Akiyoshi JOHDAI and Koji HIGASHIKAWA  
For: BINDING MEMBER REMOVING APPARATUS,  
AUTOMATIC DOCUMENT FEEDER, SHEET  
PROCESSING APPARATUS, AND IMAGE  
FORMING APPARATUS

Confirmation No.: To Be Assigned  
U.S. Serial No.: To Be Assigned  
Filed: Concurrently  
Group Art Unit: To Be Assigned  
Examiner: To Be Assigned

Prior Application:

Serial No.: 09/377,011  
Confirmation No.: 7240  
Filed: August 18, 1999  
Group Art Unit: 3651  
Examiner: Patrick H. Mackey

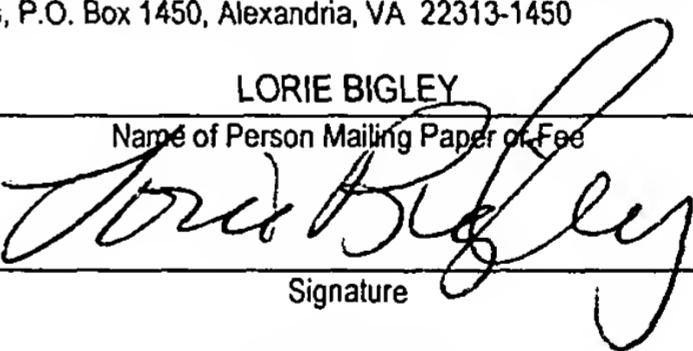
**MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

The following is a preliminary amendment that is being submitted concurrently with the filing of a Divisional Application.

EXPRESS MAIL MAILING LABEL NO.: EL 794576615 US DATE OF DEPOSIT: AUGUST 1, 2003
I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to MAIL STOP PATENT APPLICATION, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
<hr/> LORIE BIGLEY <hr/> Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee
 <hr/> Signature
August 1, 2003 Date of Signature

Attorney Docket No.: 15162/01041

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified application, filed concurrently herewith, please amend this Application as follows: